

L-3029

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT The East German Navy

DATE DISTR.

4 AUG 1958

NO. PAGES

15

REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE &amp; DATE ACQ

PROCESSING COPY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The build-up of the East German Navy began in 1949 when a sub-division of the Volkspolizei was established to direct the formation of the naval unit, the so-called Volkspolizei-See. The first units in the Navy were the previous fishery protection vessel which under the name of ERNST THAELMANN became flagship of the Navy, eight coastal minesweepers built during the war in Germany, and a few tenders, mainly cutters and tugboats. East Germany recognized the Navy officially from 1956, and it was called Nationale Volksarmee-See (NVA-See). At the present time the total force is 11,500 men, 4,000 of whom serve aboard the Navy's 140 units.

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### 2. Command

- a. The Navy is placed under the Ministerium fuer nationale Verteidigung (the Ministry of National Defense) in Berlin. The commander-in-chief is Vice-Admiral Waldemar VERNER, and the chief of the naval staff is Rear-Admiral NEUKIRCHEN. In 1954 the naval staff moved from Parow to Rostock where it now is housed in a 4-story building, Staendehaus, am Steintor.
- b. During the last year a structural change has taken place by which the Navy has been divided into an eastern and a western command. The two main bases are Sassnitz with Kuesten-Abschnitts-Kommandant Ost (K.A.K. East) and Warnemuende with K.A.K. West. The Navy is divided into six "active" flotillas, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd flotilla under K.A.K. East, and the 4th, 5th, and 6th flotilla under K.A.K. West. So far the western command has the most effective force with two RIGA-class escort vessels and nine MTB's in the 6th flotilla, while the eastern

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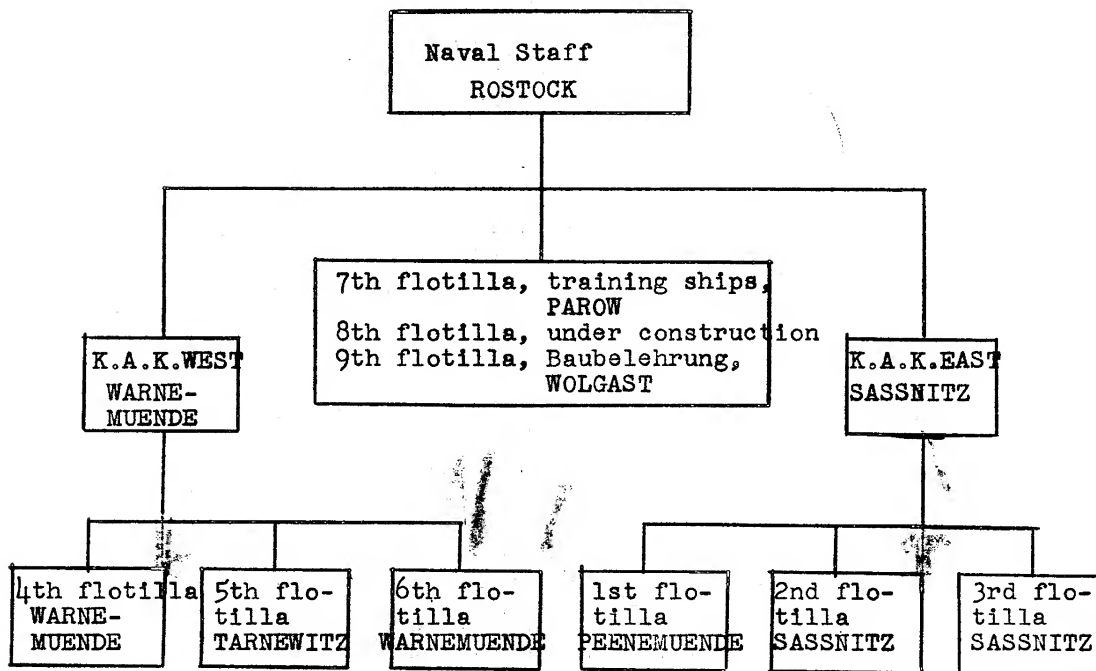
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command has only minesweepers, patrol vessels, and tenders. It has not been determined yet whether some recently acquired submarines are to be stationed under the eastern or the western command. The 7th, and 9th flotillas are schooling and training flotillas respectively. An 8th flotilla is possibly to be established.



### 3. Training and Schools

#### a. The Naval Academy in Stralsund, Schwedenschanze

The Naval Academy is located in Schwedenschanze about 1.5 kilometers north of Stralsund. The academy is housed in pre-war barracks. The total force of instructors and cadets is 1,200 men. The training takes four years, and the number of cadets graduated the last few years was 120. At the present time a total of 600 officers has been trained. The first few years the cadets were mainly recruited among former non-commissioned officers from the Navy, later among the merchant marine's officers or among Party functionaries. The officers commit themselves to serve for ten years. Political officers and communications officers are also trained at the academy.

#### b. The Academy for Officers of the Engineers, Kuehlungsborn

The academy was originally located in Rostock, but in 1952 it moved to Kuehlungsborn where it is housed in former Wehrmacht barracks. There are 500 cadets at the school who are being trained as mechanical engineer, shipbuilding engineer, or

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electrical engineer officers. The training previously took three years, but the class that began in 1955 will not graduate before 1959, so the training has been increased by one year. The recruiting of cadets for the engineers' school is done by a three-man officers' commission that mainly visits graduating classes in high schools.

c. Officers on Special Training in the Soviet Union

A submarine training school was established in Sassnitz in 1953. A number of officers from this school were sent to the Soviet Union for additional training, and in April-July 1956 a group of 17 officers was in the Soviet Union for training in MTB tactics. The East German Navy did not acquire MTB's and submarines until the fall of 1957.

d. Petty Officers and Enlisted Personnel

The enlisted personnel is drafted for a three-year period. After three months' recruit training which takes place either at the barracks in Dwasieden, Sassnitz, or the new barracks in Gehlsdorf at Warnemuende, the recruits are sent to the naval vessels, to the guard companies ashore, or they are sent on for further training at the Naval School in Parow.

e. The Naval School in Parow

The Naval School in Parow which is located about six kilometers north of Stralsund is a school for petty officers and enlisted personnel. In addition several officers and cadets receive special training there. Approximately 200 officers and instructors are connected with the school and about 1,100 petty officers and enlisted men attend the school. The school has a small number of vessels at its disposal. The number varies according to need. In the summer of 1957 the school flotilla consisted of a division of minesweepers of the HABICHT class, a division of the SCHWALBE-class, a few patrol vessels, and the training vessels FUERSTENBERG and PRENZLAU. The training of petty officers and enlisted personnel generally takes from four to eight months. The following courses are taught:

Mechanical engineering, communications, radio, artillery, mine technology, torpedo technology, medical service, administration, driving, teletype, and cooking.

Besides the above-mentioned courses, there is a six-months course for "obermatrosen" who are trained as able seamen 1st class. After this course, the able seamen 1st class commit themselves to two more years of service.

f. Radio Officers' School

There is a school in Stubbenkammen on Ruegen in which radio officers are trained. There is a total of 400 men from the East German Navy there who are billeted in hotels and boarding houses in the town.

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4. Shore Installations, Depots, Shipyards, Barracksa. Peenemuende

Peenemuende was previously the most important naval base. The harbor is situated on the northwest side of the Peene peninsula. The approach to Peenemuende from the open sea is not very good, for which reason Sassnitz on Ruegen gradually has become the most used operational base for the Navy. The Navy's main ammunition stores in Peenemuende are arranged in a bunker system. The stores are constantly guarded by a guard company.

b. Wolgast

The naval shipyard is located in Wolgast, 15 nautical miles south of Peenemuende. The sea-going minesweepers of the KRAKE and HABICHT class are built there, and all naval vessels are equipped there. There are three service points in Wolgast which are called "Objekt Wolgast."

1) "Baubelehrung"

The crews of the vessels that are being equipped at the shipyard are billeted here. They help equip the vessels and are at the same time taught seamanship and the use of arms. The total force is 600-800 men at the present time. The 9th flotilla with 3-5 vessels belongs to "Baubelehrung."

2) "Wirtschaftsabteilung"

"Wirtschaftsabteilung" is the equipment stores for all vessels. Approximately 160 men are employed there.

3) Arsenal

The Navy's weapons are stored, checked, and repaired in the arsenal. Approximately 100 men are employed there. Many of them are experts from armament factories.

c. Sassnitz

So far Sassnitz has been the most important operational base and is now the main base of K.A.K. East. There are barracks in Sassnitz, Dwasieden, in which a 1,000-man skeleton crew is quartered. There also is an engineers battalion of approximately 300 men who do various construction work. There is an important oil depot in the slope at the southern part of the harbor. The depot consists of large tanks that are buried in the slope. Pipelines lead from the tanks to a quay in the harbor.

d. Warnemuende (Breitling), Rostock, Gehlsdorf1) Warnemuende

A naval base is being enlarged in the northern part of Breitling on the former "Seeflugerhorstes" area east of Warnemuende. Barracks are being built. At the present

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time between 500 and 1,000 men are working there. Quays are being constructed for the units that gradually are being stationed there. Breitling is the headquarters of K.A.K. West.

2) Gehlsdorf

Navy barracks for approximately 1,000 men are being built in Gehlsdorf near Rostock. Some of the recruits are presumably trained there. There is a shipyard in Gehlsdorf which repairs and overhauls many of the Navy's small units.

3) Rostock

The naval staff is located in a 4-story building at Steintor, Rostock. The staff area is guarded by a guard company. The larger naval units are overhauled at the Neptune Shipyard in Rostock, and several high-speed submarine chasers will possibly be built there. It has been known for a long time that they are planning to build various types of destroyers under the cover names of HAI, FALKE, and DRACHE. But so far there is no confirmation that construction of these has begun.

e. Tarnowitz

Tarnowitz is the westernmost harbor used by the East German Navy. It is situated west of Wismar about ten nautical miles from the West German border. The harbor was repaired recently and is used by small units such as patrol vessels and coastal minesweepers. There is possibly no permanent stationing of naval vessels.

5. Coastal Radar Stations

The East German Navy's radar stations belong to the coast guard stations that are placed along the shore at intervals. They contain all necessary communications means, radio, telephone, teletype, and signal offices. They are connected with each other and with the naval staff which is kept informed about all observations of vessels and aircraft. Radar installations have been observed along the coast from west toward east in the following locations:

a. Tarnowitz

Radar installed in 1957. No additional information about the installation available.

b. The Island Poel

Also established in 1957. The radar is from the factory RFT in Berlin-Koepenick. Wave-length 3.2 cm. The radar can be set at three different distances, 3, 12, and 30 nautical miles. Surface warning only.

c. Kuehlungsborn

The radar here is of Soviet origin and was installed in the spring of 1956. Wave-length 10.5 cm. Three ranges.

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d. Warnemuende

The radar which is located north of Breitling is of the same type as the installation on Poel. Installed in 1957.

e. Darsser Ort

No information about the installation available.

f. Arkona

The radar here was installed in 1957 and is of the same type as the Poel installation.

g. Stubbenkammen

No information about this installation available.

h. Greifswalder Oie

The radar here was installed in January 1957 and is of the same type as the Poel installation.

i. Daenholm

There is a test shop for radar equipment at the island Daenholm near Stralsund. Technicians are sent from the test shop to the various stations for control and repairs.

3. Radio Stations

The reports between the naval staff and the bases on one hand and the sailing units on the other hand are sent via Ruegen radio in Glowe. Ruegen radio Lohme is the reserve station for Glowe. The sketch shows the location of radar, radio, signal, and observation posts. [The sketches are on Page 12 and 13.]

7. Naval Vesselsa. Number of Vessels, Classes

The East German Navy has approximately 140 units of the following categories at its disposal:

Two escort vessels, ex-Soviet of the RIGA class.

Nine MTB's, ex-Soviet.

Three to five coastal submarines of the M class, presumably taken over from the Soviets in December 1957.

One coastal submarine of ex-German XXIII class is being repaired, but is not in commission yet.

Twelve sea-going minesweepers of the HABICHT class.

Four sea-going minesweepers of the KRAKE class. Six more of this class are under construction and being equipped at the naval shipyard in Wolgast and are expected to be commissioned in the course of 1958.

Forty-two coastal minesweepers of the SCHWALBE class.

Twenty patrol vessels of the KS class.

Twelve patrol vessels of the DELPHIN class.

Six patrol vessels of the TUEMLER class.

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Four training vessels, ERNST THAELMANN, PRENZLAU, FUERSTENBERG and the brigantine WILHELM PIECK. Twenty tenders including supply ships, tankers, salvage vessels, tugboats, fire extinguishing vessels, and diving vessels. Most of these tenders are of lugger type or coaster type.

b. New Ships

- 1) Experiments with manufacture of motor torpedo boats have been carried out at the shipyard in Rosslau for several years. A vessel was on trial runs in the fall and allegedly reached a speed of 38-40 knots. The vessel is called FORELLE. It is 26 meters long and resembles the Soviet type with two torpedo tubes on the deck. The vessel is in Sassnitz from time to time. The shipyard in Rosslau has started working on several vessels of the same type.
- 2) Four torpedo salvage vessels called SPERBER are being built at the Koepenick Shipyard in Berlin. These vessels are expected to be completed in the spring of 1958. They are 20 meters long and are, besides their main purpose, also intended for laying smoke screens.
- 3) During recent years there have been plans to build various types of destroyers, but there is no confirmation that these plans are being carried out.

3. Special Equipment on the Vessels, Including Radar, Sonar, Mine-sweeping Gear, Minelaying Gear, and Smoke Screen Laying Gear

a. Radar

During the last two years the East German Navy has started equipping its large units with radar. The first vessel aboard which radar was installed was minesweeper of the HABICHT class, pendant No. 6-11. The radar on this vessel is of Soviet make (wave-length 10.5 cm). The new minesweepers of the KRAKE class and gradually also the minesweepers of the HABICHT class are getting surface warning radar of East German make from the factory RFT in Koepenick, Berlin. This radar is said to be excellent although not especially dependable. The wave-length is 3.2 cm and the antenna is shaped like a parabolic cylinder. The radar can be adjusted to three ranges, 3, 12, and 30 nautical miles. Besides the above-mentioned vessels, there is radar aboard the two RIGA-class escort vessels.

b. Anti-Submarine Weapon, Sonar

The RIGA-class escort vessels, the minesweepers, both the sea-going and the coastal minesweepers, and approximately ten patrol vessels of the KS class are equipped with sonar installations. The installation is of the Soviet Tamir X type. All vessels are equipped with or can be equipped with apparatuses for dropping of depth charges. In addition forward-throwing weapon of the Hedgehog type is mounted on the RIGA-class escort vessels.

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c. Minesweeping Gear

When the last vessels of the KRAKE class are completed in the course of 1958, the East German Navy will have twenty-two sea-going minesweepers, each with a displacement of 900 tons, and approximately forty coastal minesweepers, each with a displacement of 100 tons, at its disposal. These minesweepers can all be used against contact mines as well as non-contact type mines. They use one-sided or two-sided paravane gear ("Scherdrachen-geraet") against anchored contact mines. Against magnetic mines they use either towed magnets ("Hohlstabgeraet") or "Kabelfern-raeum-geraet" that consists of two electrodes that are towed after the vessel.

d. Minelaying

The minelaying capacity is high. The above-mentioned twenty-two vessels of the HABICHT class and the KRAKE class are equipped as minelayers with mine tracks in both sides along the deck to the wide stern. There is no information as to how many mines these ships can carry, but the number is probably somewhere between forty and fifty. The forty coastal minesweepers are also equipped with tracks for minelaying and are estimated to be able to carry five to ten mines. Apart from these vessels, the RIGA-class escort vessels and the MTB's are also able to lay mines if necessary.

e. Smoke-Screen Laying

The East German Navy believes to a great extent in camouflaging the movements of its vessels during maneuvers with smoke screens.

9. Order of Battle - Basing

It has been ascertained that the Navy

is divided into nine flotillas and that the individual flotillas are divided into "Abteilungen" and "Unterabteilungen." Although the number of vessels within the various types are known, it has not yet been possible in all cases to determine accurately how many vessels belong to each flotilla

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b. Types of Vessels

- 1 - KSS - Kuestenschutzschiffe (coastal destroyer).
- 2 - is not in use. Possibly for submarines.
- 3 - KS - Kuestenschutzboote (patrol vessels).
- 4 - KRS - Kuesten-und-Raedeschutzboote (patrol vessels).
- 5 - S - Schnellboote (MTB).
- 6 - MLR - Mineleg-und Raeumboote (sea-going minesweepers and minelayers).
- 7 - R - Raeumboote (coastal minesweepers).
- H - Hilfschiffe (tenders).

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The chief of SHD is Fregattenkapitan GEAWE. Two Soviet liaison officers who wear East German naval uniforms are attached to SHD's staff. Besides the headquarters at Daenholt, there are the following service points:

Stralsund, Wasserstrasse 18,  
Warnemuende, Seestrasse 15,  
Peenemuende, at the naval base.

Besides the maritime projects that are solved by four hydrographic survey groups, there is a land survey group. SHD has about thirty vessels at its disposal, most of them trawlers or cutters. Several of these, among others JOH. S. KRUEGER and MAGNETOLOGE, have often been observed while operating in Danish waters (the southern part of the Sound and Fehmarn Belt). At the present time a group of naval vessels of the SCHWALBE class has been lent to SHD.

# 11. Evaluation

## a. Training Area

The Navy's training areas are close to the East German coast. Naval vessels on maneuvers are most frequently observed east of Ruegen, in Tromper Wiek and Prorer Wiek, and in the waters near Greifswalder Oie. All naval vessels are obliged to report their position to the home base every two hours. The coastal observation posts report the position and course of all vessels within sight, so the naval staff continually knows which vessels are in the vicinity.

## b. Possible Tactical Use

The East German Navy seems to have been built up with the main emphasis placed on mine vessels - combined minelayers and mine-sweepers. The Navy therefore has a considerable minelaying capacity at the present time, and this capacity presumably forms the necessary background for the East German Navy's tactical contribution in war. It is therefore likely that the Navy's task in war first and foremost will be minelaying, defensively as well as offensively - defensively off their own harbor and coastal areas and offensively in Danish and West German waters. Fehmarn Belt and certain parts of the southern area of the Sound are the most natural areas for such offensive minelaying. This minelaying - which without a doubt will take place in step with the Soviet naval operations in the Baltic Sea - can to a certain extent be done under protection of their own light surface forces. The Navy does not have an air force at its disposal yet, for which reason tactical support must be provided either by the East German Air Force's planes or - and presumably more natural - by the Soviet Naval Air Force.

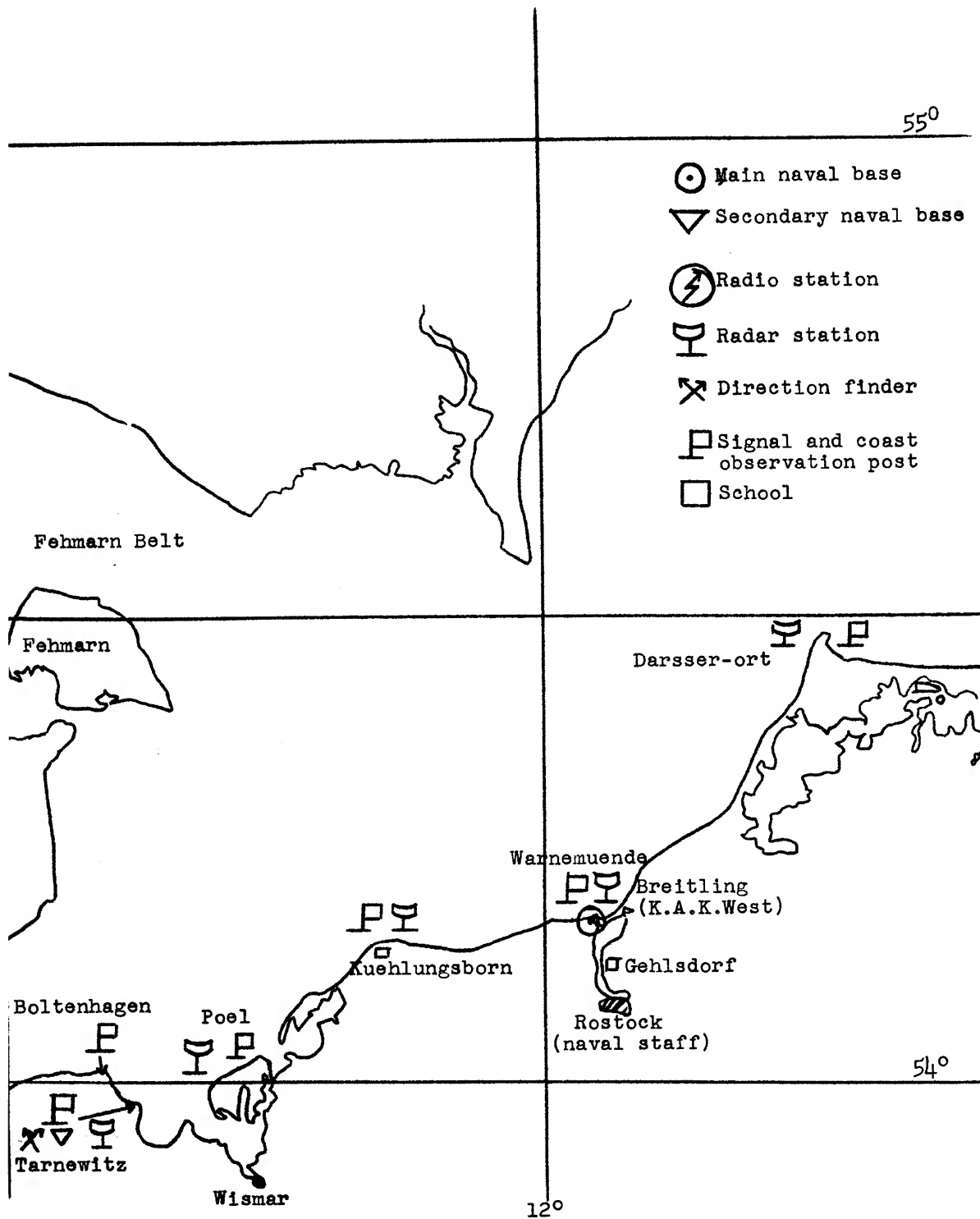
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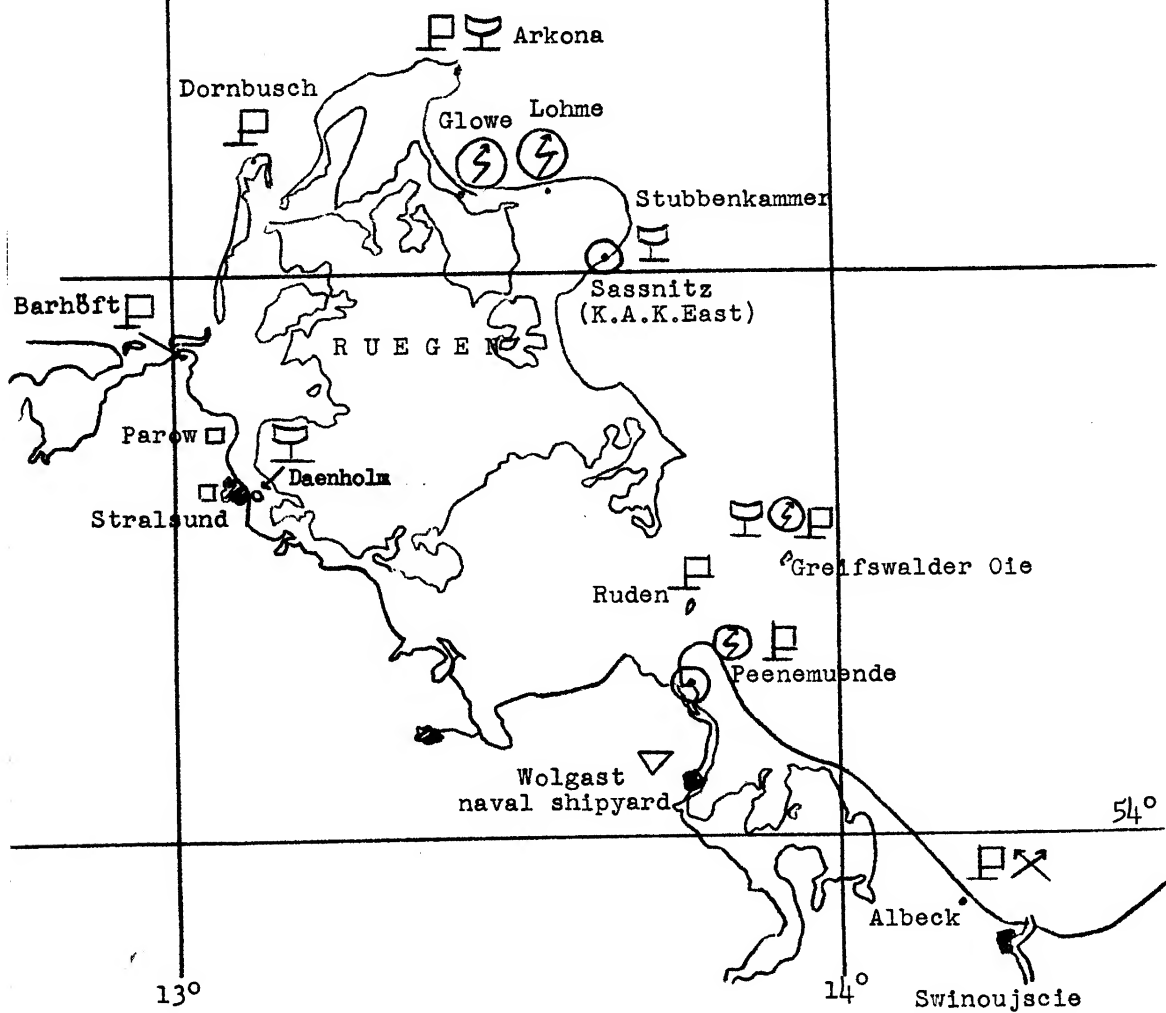
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East German Naval Vessels.

Type	Class	Displacement	Length	Width	Draught	Speed	Armament
DE	RIGA	ca.1000 tons	90 m	ca.9.5 m		28 kn.	3x1x100 mm 2x2x37 mm 1x3x53 cm torpedoes "Hedge hog" on front of bridge
MM+NN	KRAKE	ca. 900 tons	ca.70 m	ca.8.0 m	ca.3.5 m	17 kn.	1x85 mm mines 4x2x25 mm depth charges 1x2x25 mm
MM	HABICHT	600 tons	55 m	ca.8.0 m	ca.3.5 m	16 kn.	1x1x105 mm mines 6x20 mm depth charg
MS	SCHWALBE	ca. 120 tons	28 m	ca.3.5 m	1.5 m	12 kn.	2x23 mm depth charges
PB	KS	100 tons	28 m	ca.3.0 m	2 m	25 kn.	2x23 mm depth charges
PB	DELPHIN	70 tons	20 m	ca.2.0 m	ca.1.5 m	20 kn.	1x23 mm
PB	TUEMMLER	70 tons	20 m	ca.2.0 m	ca.1.5 m	18 kn.	1x23 mm
AG	Salvage vessels, tugboats, luggers.						
PT	FORELLE	ca. 35 tons	26 m	ca.6.0 m	ca.1.5 m	40 kn.	2x1x53 cm torpedoes quick-firing gun and machinegun
PT	Ex-Soviet	50 tons	26 m		1.8 m	40 kn.	2x1x53 cm torpedoes quick-firing gun and machinegun

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## Description of Attachments:

## A. Twelve photographs of East German vessels.

Photo 1. RIGA-class escort vessel, pendant No. 1-62.

Photo 2. KRAKE class.

Photo 3. HABICHT class, pendant No. 6-73.

Photo 4. SCHWALBE class, pendant No. 7-44.

Photo 5. TUEMMLER class, pendant No. 4-75.

Photo 6. TUEMMLER class, pendant No. 4-72.

Photo 7. DELPHIN class, pendant No. 4-76.

Photo 8. KS class, pendant No. 3-43.

Photo 9. Tugboat, pendant No. H-33.

Photo 10. Tugboat, pendant No. H-43.

Photo 11. Tender, pendant No. H-12.

Photo 12. Survey vessel JOH. L. KRUEGER.

## B. A page with the following flags and pendants:

1. The national army's flag, dimensions: 5:3.
2. Flag of the naval forces.  
Flag of the Minister of the National Defense. Size for ships and boats of all classes: 1.0 m x 0.6 m.
3. The Chief of the National Army's naval forces. Size for ships and boats of all classes: 1.0 m x 0.6 m.
4. Vice-Admiral. Size for ships and boats of all classes: 1.0 m x 0.6 m.
5. Rear-Admiral. Size for ships and boats of all classes: 1.0 m x 0.6 m.
6. Flotilla pendant. Size for ships and boats of all classes: 75 cm x 30 cm.
7. Detachment pendant. Size for ships and boats of all classes: 75 cm x 30 cm.
8. Group pendant. Size for ships and boats of all classes: 45 cm x 35 cm.
9. Command pendant. Size for ships of 1st and 2nd class: 4.9 m x 0.15 m.  
Size for ships of 3rd and 4th class: 2.0 m x 0.15 m.
10. Command pendant. Size for ships of 1st and 2nd class: 4.0 m x 1.15 m.  
Size for ships of 3rd and 4th class: 2.0 m x 0.15 m.

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